

October 20, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was held on the above date, commencing at 6:07 P.M.

PRESENT:	Commissioners:	Richard C. Cox, Chair Carolina M. Stark Kathryn A. Hein Paoi X. Lor Sarah W. Morgan Michael M. O'Hear
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ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Chief Gerard Washington, representing the Milwaukee Fire Department; and Edward Flynn, Chief, Milwaukee Police Department.

The Chair reconvened the Board in Regular Session, having previously met in Executive Session from 4:07 p.m. to 5:57 p.m. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c) Wis. Stats. to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over whom the Board has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: Chief Flynn performance review.

The following item was taken out of order:

1. NEW BUSINESS:

b) The Director announced the Board would be considering the reappointment of Chief Edward Flynn to a second term as Chief of Police. The Chair opened the floor to public comment.

Mark Niessembaum expressed his gratitude for Chief Flynn and what he has done for the Police Department and the City. He has lowered crime rates, brought technology, created the Neighborhood Task Force, practiced proactive policing, 9-1-1 changes, pole cameras, in-squad video, and citizen complaints. He believes Chief Flynn is doing his best with what he has, despite negative media coverage. He feels Chief Flynn is the best Chief Milwaukee has had and is glad he will continue his tenure because he is exceptional.

Rick Petrie, Executive Director, Urban Anthropology Inc. (the neighborhood association for Lincoln Park and Baran neighborhoods), stated he conducted a survey of 100 residents in September regarding response times. Sixty-four percent of respondents stated they called the police, and 69% of the 64% stated it was for an emergency. When asked how fast the police responded when called, 13% stated very quickly, within ½ an hour; 28% stated between ½ an hour and one hour; 41% stated over one hour; and 17% stated the police never showed up at all. He added some residents are discouraged from calling the police at all because of the response times.

Ralph Hollmon, President and CEO, of the Milwaukee Urban League, stated Chief Flynn is an outstanding Chief, and they have a strong working relationship. He believes Chief Flynn's job is tough. He thinks Chief Flynn is tough on crime, while maintaining a strong community relationship.

Commissioner Stark moved to appoint Chief Flynn to a second term, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated Chief Flynn is a forthright individual, open and responsive to inquiries and suggestions, who looks out for the best interest of the community under difficult circumstances and challenging budgets in a city that is as diverse as they come but has its own set of problems. He thinks Chief Flynn has tried to address those issues on behalf of the Department, and has the best interest of the Department and the public at heart. He thanked Chief Flynn for his service on behalf of the Board.

Chief Flynn thanked the Board for their support and their vote of confidence. He stated it has been a privilege to lead the Police Department. He is proud of the members who have been welcoming and supportive. He stated this has been the most positive professional experience of his life.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented a letter dated October 18, 2011, from City Labor Negotiator Troy Hamblin, wherein he requests approval to recommend decreases in the salary and compensation in 2012 for sworn and non-sworn members of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Departments, with the exception of members of the Milwaukee Police Association. Mr. Hamblin stated the goal was not to be sued by the unions because the City is currently in court over health insurance changes. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

b) The Director presented a correspondence dated October 18, 2011, from Firefighter Jeffrey Halsey wherein he provides a status update for his temporary residency exemption. Commissioner Stark asked if the six positions his wife applied for would affect his wife being able to drive. Firefighter Halsey stated jobs are currently filled, and most open in April and are filled in July. He added he is trying to show his wife's efforts to find jobs closer to Milwaukee. Commissioner Stark asked if his wife has applied for jobs outside her field. Firefighter Halsey stated his wife has gone through over 12 years of training and is a certified teacher, and it is hard to find positions outside her field that she is qualified for. Commissioner Stark stated she does not want to see children moved during the school year, but she does want to see efforts made to return to the City of Milwaukee. Firefighter Halsey stated the ultimate goal is to keep consistency in his family, and for his wife to apply for jobs in Milwaukee, but the jobs she is qualified for will open in the spring. Commissioner Stark asked what the long term plans are. Firefighter Halsey stated his family will consider all the options. The Chair stated the residency exemption stands. Commissioner Stark moved to review the exemption again at the second regular meeting in February, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

a) The Director presented a letter dated October 17, 2011, from Paralegal Cynthia Janusz, wherein Police Officer Melanie Beasley requests a temporary exemption of the City residency requirement. Officer Beasley was present and stated she is doing everything she can to find a new home. The Chair suggested an exemption until the first meeting in February. Commissioner Stark moved approval of the request until the first meeting in February, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

4. EXAMINATIONS:

a) The Director presented for adoption an eligible list for the position of Two-Way Radio Communications Technician in the Police Department, consisting of 3 names. Commissioner Hein moved approval of the list, seconded by Commissioner O'Hear. The motion carried unanimously.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following appointments, as presented by Chief Rohlfing, were approved by the Board:

TO FIREFIGHTER, on a contingency basis, from eligible list established April 23, 2009, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, psychological, medical, and drug screenings, and vacancies, effective October 31, 2011:

#263 – ANDREW O'MALLEY; #264 – NICHOLAS J. FETZER; #269 – BENJAMIN R. BAUS; #273 – ZACHARY HENNESSY; and #278 – ALLEN O. DEWINDT III.

b) The Director presented a letter dated October 3, 2011, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he informs the Board that Firefighter Mark B. Lipinski returned from his unpaid military leave of absence effective October 1, 2011. The leave was granted September 4, 2011.

c) The Director presented a letter dated October 10, 2011, from Chief Rohlfing, wherein he requests classification of a civilian position of Chief Medical Officer, added to the 2012 Fire Department budget. Commissioner Morgan asked if this is a new position. The Director responded the position is currently paid under a contract which expires December 31, 2011. Commissioner Morgan asked if the position could be filled by a nurse practitioner. The Director responded not with the way the job description is currently written. The Chair referred the request to the Department of Employee Relations for study and report.

#### 6. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

a) The following promotions, as presented by Assistant Chief Harpole, were approved by the Board:

TO POLICE AIDE, from eligible list established July 28, 2011, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, psychological evaluation, medical and drug screening, effective October 31, 2011:

#1 – ROLANDO GONZALEZ; #3 – NICHOLAS GAJEWSKI; #5 – ANDREW KENDL; #6 – JAMES DUFFY; #8 – SYNQUINSITY RANDOLPH; #9 – KARLEE KENNON; #12 – TYLER SHARP; #14 – TERRELL HARPER; #15 – ANTHONY MARTINEZ; #16 – KORY FONS; #22 – DEREK ERTL; #23 – JAMES NOWAK; #30 – SHA'RON SIMMONS; #31 – KYLE GRZECHOWIAK; #32 – DAVID MEYER; #35 – STEPHEN DIETZMAN; #36 – TYLER PILEGGI; #38 – AUSTIN LLANAS; #42 – OSCAR PICENO; #43 – CAMERON SCOTT; #44 – MATTHEW LINK; #46 – JUSTIN SCHLIEM; #47 – ISRAEL RIVERA; #49 – NICHOLAS TURENNE; #51 – KRICKET MISHICH; #52 – SEAN PATRICK; #53 – MELISSA BELSHA; #54 – EDWIN AYALA; and #55 – QUENTIN GOODMAN.

TO POLICE AIDE, on a contingency basis, from eligible list established July 28, 2011, contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, psychological evaluation, medical and drug screening, and vacancies, effective October 31, 2011:

#56 – PATRICK FISCHER; #57 – AARON SWEENEY; #58 – DONOVAN GROGAN; and #59 – MICHAEL EVERS.

TO POLICE DISPATCHER, from eligible list established July 28, 2011, contingent upon successful completion of a psychological evaluation, effective October 30, 2011:

#9 – SONYA MITCHELL.

TO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD (REGULAR), with effective dates:

JACQUE S. FALKNER (9/9/11); FLORA S. MARLOW (9/21/11); JENNIFER L. PETROVSKY (9/9/11); RICHARD L. RAY (9/22/11); SAMMIE L. REED (9/14/11); CLENT B. WILLIAMS (9/21/11); DORIS M. WILLIAMS (9/21/11).

b) The Director presented a letter dated October 13, 2011, from Assistant Chief Harpole, wherein he requests that the probationary period of Police Officer Jessica M. Cannon be extended for a period of 228 days, due to limited-duty status and a Family Medical Leave of Absence. Commissioner O'Hear moved approval of the request, seconded by Commissioner Hein. The motion carried unanimously.

c) The Director presented a letter dated October 10, 2011, from Chief Flynn, wherein he notifies the Board that David Heard has been granted a one year extension to his leave of absence for the purpose of

continuing to assume an exempt position as Community Relations Manager for the City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission. The leave shall expire November 14, 2012, and may be renewed upon request.

d) The Director presented a letter dated October 13, 2011, from Assistant Chief Harpole, wherein he notifies the Board that Police Officer Andrew Thoma returned from an unpaid military leave of absence, effective September 27, 2011, which commenced August 22, 2011; Police Officer Lara Benjean was granted an unpaid military leave of absence which commenced September 18, 2011, and will end October 21, 2011; and Police Officer Yoron Whitfield was granted an unpaid medical leave of absence which commenced September 13, 2011, and will end January 1, 2012.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Director announced the next meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Milwaukee Safety Academy, located at 6680 N. Teutonia.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner O'Hear moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Tobin  
Executive Director

MGT:mk